

MEMO FROM
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TO:

5/70?

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off the record

Some of my friends want to make a fuss about the Hammond/NSF case. Since the guy not only criticized Cambodia, but also ~~the~~ called for the electoral defeat of Nixon and his party, it's a bit much to ask the president to name him. (And he made that speech, albeit in the heat of May 1 emotion, after he had agreed to accept the job.) So I don't think this is a very cogent case to push on the grounds of not politicizing the NSF. However, this does deserve some editorial treatment, simply to ask for some clear ground-rules as to which jobs are "political", which are not.

Much more serious is the meat-grinder that ~~HEW~~ is going through. Yolles is one of the finest, most-principled men I know, & there is no doubt that NIMH will be progressively torn up and paralyzed. ~~Hert~~ Brown was a shrewd choice for the Malekites. He has a reasonable collaboration; but he is personally very ambitious and will probably be ever so compliant, having been clearly shown the handwriting on the wall. Or they may just fire him in a couple of months, after he's served the purpose of blunting criticism over the Yolles "dismissal".

There will be a lot more!

Nixon

(Sumner, not said)